

3 October 2024

Flood News Flash



Artwork by Natalie Davey

Upgrades to the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre and Flood Hub

The Shire of Derby/West Kimberley is thrilled to confirm upgrades to our public access way at the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre is now complete!

Now with a brand new front door, the team at the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre are available to support community with DOT enquiries, Shire enquiries and tourism information, between 8:30AM - 4PM Mon - Fri.



The Flood Hub is still operational and the team will continue to support you through your recovery journey.

The Hub will now have reduced opening hours and will operate on an appointment-only basis three days a week, with Tuesday being the exception—offering a walk-in service from 8 AM to 12 noon.

Also, Fitzroy Crossing Library services and books have now moved back into the Flood Hub area.

Come and speak to the team about any concerns you have about your recovery journey. They can help you with:

- Applying for or tracking your application progress for the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (applications close on November 30, 2024)
- Assistance with GIVIT requests
- Assistance by Industry Recovery Officers and Morrgul with guidance through the Fitzroy Valley Aboriginal Business Program.

Whether you need local Council or tourism information, other government services, or to engage with local services, the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre & Flood Hub are here to help you navigate your needs.

Flood Hub New Opening Hours

MONDAY: By appointment only
TUESDAY: 8am - 12noon
WEDNESDAY: By appointment only
THURSDAY: By appointment only
FRIDAY: Closed

To book an appointment please come in and see us, or contact us on the below:

Phone - 9191 0904

Email - communityrecoveryofficer@sdwk.wa.gov.au

In this newsletter you can expect:

Upgrades to the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre and Flood Hub

Brooking Channel Update

Working group meeting in Wangkatjungka

A Stitch in Time is coming to the Kimberley

Cuppa Circle dates - October

Recovery program to support local Aboriginal businesses has launched

Shire tenders still open

Fitzroy River Bridge is WA Project of the Year

Events Calendar- October

Cuppa Circles making music in Loanbun and Bayulu

We want your say on a new Rec and Evac Centre in FX

Brooking Channel Update

The deck of the 127 metre-long Brooking Channel Bridge is now in place, marking an important project milestone.

The deck was constructed on a casting bay immediately to the west, before being pushed over the top of the bridge piers. The launch was completed in under a week.

With the deck now in place, the attention turns to finishing works that will include the asphaltting of the bridge deck and the approaches in readiness for opening in late 2024.

The old Brooking Channel Bridge was demolished in June 2024 marking a significant milestone in the project timeline. The demolition took place over four days, clearing the way for the construction of the new bridge to begin.

This was followed by extensive works to install 18 steel piles, between 5 and 14 metres in length, as well as initial pier construction works.

Currently the project has more than 120 local workers, some who are taking part in construction, hospitality and security training. On-the-ground training has focused on mentoring and learning, allowing for creating an inclusive culture that gives the team the skills to work in a number of different construction and hospitality positions.



Where can I find information on recovery financial assistance?

Some recovery funding programs have closed, however there are still several recovery financial assistance programs available to flood-affected residents in the Fitzroy Valley.

There are funding programs for individuals and homeowners, primary producers, clean up and support and social and emotional well-being.

Head to: www.dfes.wa.gov.au/emergencyswa/recovery or visit the Fitzroy Flood Hub for more information and assistance in applying.

Latest Fitzroy Valley Flood Recovery Working Group meeting held on country in Wangkatjungka

The Fitzroy Valley Flood Recovery Working Group recently held its 19th working group meeting, marking a significant milestone in the Fitzroy Valley flood recovery process. Since the first meeting on 17 February 2023, the working group has played an important role in ensuring representatives of community come together to discuss and give advice on the ongoing recovery efforts.

What made this meeting particularly special was that it was the first meeting held on country, hosted at Wangkatjungka. The on country meeting format allowed members to engage with others in a different setting and the next meeting is set for Noonkanbah community on 22 October.

The majority of the agenda focused on a collaborative effort with IPS Management Consultants to co-design the flood recovery review process. The intention is to create a recovery model that ensures local communities are at the heart of the review, incorporating their perspectives and experiences to guide future planning.



Additionally, the working group considered three community grant applications to verify their authenticity, ensuring they were from community members. This work is important in keeping authenticity and transparency in our flood recovery efforts.

As the working group continues its work, it remains an integral part of the Fitzroy Valley flood recovery, demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing the challenges faced by the region.



A Stitch In Time is coming to the Kimberley!

A Stitch In time are bringing their theatre skills to the Fitzroy Valley communities and Derby in October and November. Keep an eye out for more information and dates!

Cuppa Circles

It is October and that means new Cuppa Circles dates!

Cuppa Circles are an opportunity for community members to come together, have a yarn and share stories over some good food and activities.

Here's where you can find us:

- Karnparmi - Thur 3 Oct
- Joy Springs - Wed 23 Oct
- Junjuwa - Thur 24 Oct
- Bungardi - Fri 25 Oct

There will be more Cuppa Circles coming in the future so keep an eye out on your community noticeboard as well as here for dates and times.



Shire Tenders still open

The following tenders are currently open and seeking interested businesses to work with the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley.

- Tender T05-2024/25 Maintenance of Solar Energy Systems in Derby and Fitzroy Crossing (closes 7 Oct 3pm)
- Tender T04 - 202425 Fitzroy Crossing Service Workers Camp Demobilisation (closes 18 Oct 10am)

Applications will only be accepted through the online Tenderlink portal. Contact the Shire if you need help accessing. To view documents and apply, scan the QR Code:



Recovery program to support local Aboriginal businesses has launched!

The Fitzroy Valley Aboriginal Business Program, which is part of the Aboriginal and Local Business Participation in Recovery Program, is now open to Aboriginal businesses in the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley.

Indigenous business consultancy Morrulgul have been engaged through the program to provide business support and advisory services to help increase the participation of local Aboriginal businesses in the ongoing flood recovery and reconstruction works.

To learn more about the program scan the QR code or:

email - info@morrulgul.com.au

phone - 08 9193 5570

Industry recovery officers and Morrulgul will also be in the Flood Hub to assist you with any questions.



This program is jointly funded through the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Fitzroy River Bridge is WA project of the year



Congratulations to the Fitzroy River Bridge Project for being awarded WA Project of the Year at the WA Engineering Excellence Awards.

The awards panel called the project "a shining example of engineering excellence."

A huge congratulations to everyone who worked on the project, namely the Fitzroy Bridge Alliance comprising of BMD Constructions, Georgiou, BG & E and Main Roads Western Australia.

The Bridge Project also was recently recognised at the Civil Contractors Federation WA's annual Earth Awards for excellence in civil construction, winning the judges award.

The New Fitzroy River Bridge Project's remarkable achievement in completing the bridge in just 11 months has set a new benchmark in innovative construction, overcoming complex challenges and delivering vital infrastructure for the community, particularly in a remote region.

This accomplishment is a testament to the power of engineering and community spirit working together to drive positive change in the Fitzroy Valley.

Events Calendar - October

FRI 4
OCT

**FITZROY CROSSING
CIRCUS ROYALE**
Fitzroy Crossing Rec Centre
5pm start

EVERY WED
NIGHT

JUNIOR FOOTBALL
Fitzroy Crossing Town Oval
6:00 - 7:30pm

MON
NIGHTS

MIXED SOCIAL NETBALL
Fitzroy Crossing Basketball Courts
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Cuppa Circles making music in Loanbun and Bayulu



This week, we had two wonderful Cuppa Circles, and we're so grateful to everyone who joined us in Loanbun and Bayulu!

In Loanbun, it was fantastic to sit under the shade sails near the Homemakers with some great company!

Loren from Legal Aid was there, along with Ben and Mick from Nindilingarri Cultural Health Services, who always make our Cuppa Circle extra special. The kids had a blast testing their lung capacity with the Spirometer as part of the Healthy Lifestyles program.



We also had some valuable discussions about preparing for the wet season, updates on new homes, and community changes. Later in the week, we were off to Bayulu for a delightful gathering outside the store with some of the ladies and kids.

Lucy brought out the tunes with some favorite gospel songs, and the plumbing contractors even joined us for a cuppa and some music! Lucy's selection of instruments—keyboards, ukuleles, tambourines, and drums—really brought the fun to life, especially for the kids!

Cissy Nuggett had a lovely surprise when she realised that Tahlia Storer, now all grown up, had once been her student. Tahlia sweetly shared that Cissy had been her favorite teacher growing up—what a beautiful reminder of the lasting impact teachers can have!

A big thank you to everyone who came along! If you missed it, no worries—check out our October Cuppa Circle Schedule. We'd love to have you join us for a morning tea, a yarn, and let us know if there are any support services you'd like us to organise. We're here to support your community in ways that matter to you!

We want your say on a new Rec and Evac Centre in Fitzroy



The Shire Projects team were out and about recently in Fitzroy Crossing to conduct engagement sessions around the planning of a new Recreation and Evacuation Centre in Fitzroy Crossing.

If you missed us, and want to have your say about the project, please email peta.greening@sdwk.wa.gov.au. We want your say on what a new facility should look like, and what should be included.

Fitzroy Crossing Flood Hub

Come and see the team at the Flood Hub Tues 8am-12pm or make an appointment, inside the Fitzroy Crossing Visitor Centre.